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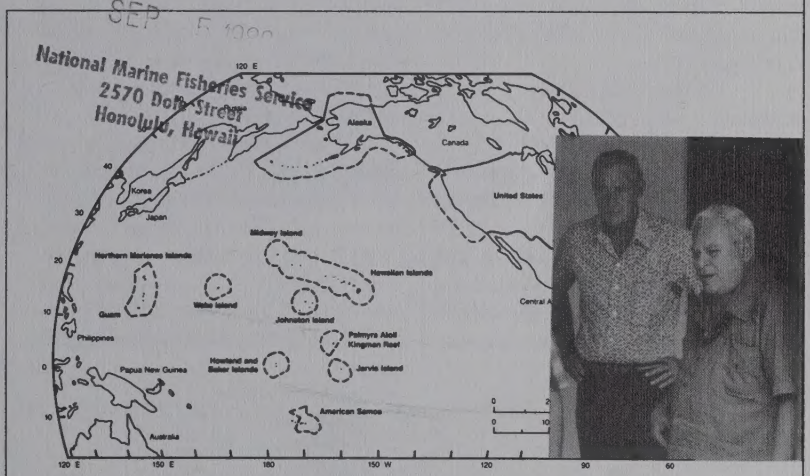
American Samoa Governor, Peter Coleman, addresses 65th Council Meeting

Governor Peter Tali Coleman's address to the 65th meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in Pago Pago centered on two controversial issues facing Pacific fisheries today: drift gillnets and inclusion of tuna under the Magnuson Act.



Dashed lines represent the boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States. The Council manages almost half the area of the entire EEZ. Inset: Governor Coleman (r) and Chairman Paty discussing Pacific tuna fisheries.

DRIFTNETS

As Governor Coleman observed, drift gillnet fishing has escalated tremendously in recent years throughout the Pacific. The North Pacific high seas squid drift gillnet fleet currently numbers about 700 vessels, including 500 from Japan and 100 each from Korea and Taiwan. Each vessel sets 15-30 miles of net per night, which amounts to about 15,000 miles of net set each day during the squid fishing season from May through December. The annual catch of neon flying squid is estimated at 200,000 to 300,000 metric tons, exclusive of substantial incidental by-catch, especially salmon, billfish, tuna, birds and mammals.

Since 1972, another 500 Japanese and Taiwanese driftnet vessels have been operating during the spring and summer months in a high seas tuna and billfish fishery. During the peak season, approximately 10,000 miles of net can be set and retrieved each day, resulting in an annual catch of about 4,000 metric tons of billfish (mostly striped marlin) and roughly 13,000 metric tons of albacore tuna. While the main target species in this fishery is albacore tuna, striped marlin and swordfish, other pelagic fish species, sea birds and marine mammals are beleived to be routinely caught and discarded.

Another growing drift gillnet fishery, this one in the South Pacific, has operated since 1982 with up to 160

See COLEMAN ...page 2

ON THE WATERFRONT...with Bruce Mounier of the Magic Dragon

Swordfish are making a big splash on the commercial market these days, and BRUCE MOUNIER, SR. of the MAGIC DRAGON, is one man responsible for the current trend of longline fishing for swordfish that is sweeping Hawaiian waters. The main market for swordfish is not Hawaii's local market, but the summer mainland market, since swordfish is primarily used for barbecues.

Originally based in Miami, Bruce and his family arrived in Hawaii during the early 1980's. Bruce pioneered the use of plastic traps in the lobster fishery of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. After several seasons in the lobster fishery, the MAGIC DRAGON headed back east to fish from the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, all the way to Newfoundland and across to Ireland. In the process he learned about swordfish biology, feeding habits and migrations from east coast swordfish high-liner fisherman, Bruce Winters of the OLYMPIC CHAMPION.

The Mouniers returned to Hawaii in July of 1988, bringing with them knowledge of Atlantic swordfish

Story continued on page 4

Coleman addresses 65th meeting

vessels, primarily from Japan, Taiwan and a few vessels from Korea. Like the North Pacific drift gillnet fishery for tuna and billfish, the emerging South Pacific drift gillnet fishery for albacore tuna uses large-eye nets (7-8 inches). The nets vary from 10-30 yards deep and average about 15 miles in length. The 1989 annual albacore tuna catch probably well exceeded 35,000 metric tons. The level of incidental catches of striped marlin, swordfish and other pelagic species is unknown but is believed to be significant.

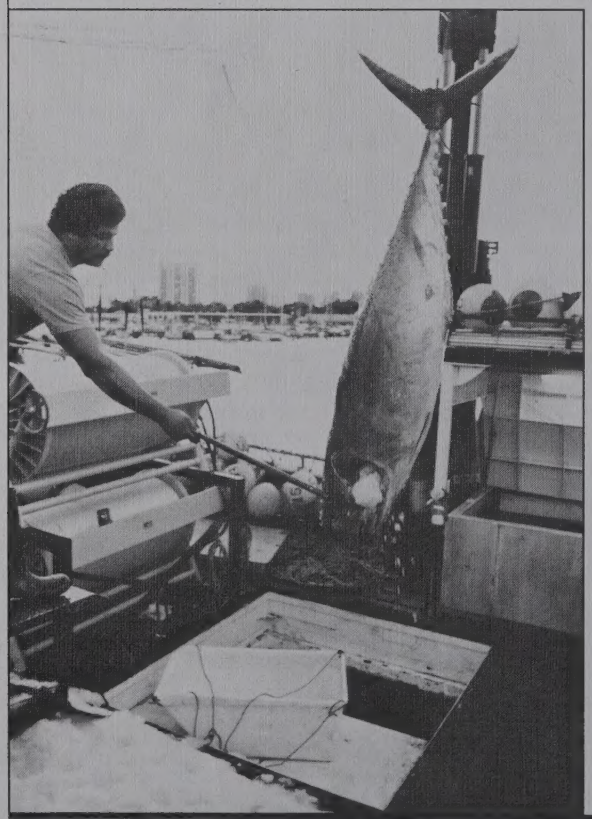
In response to this evident problem, Governor Coleman announced the recent signing of a resolution prepared by the Pacific Basin Development Council, which is designed to help end the wasteful practice of fishing with drift gillnets which kill indiscriminately. He commended the local canneries and others in the industry who are refusing to do business with the drift netters.

TUNA

Regarding the inclusion of tuna under the Magnuson Act, Governor Coleman concluded that the United States' tuna position is erroneous and short-sighted.

"There is clear evidence that the exclusion of tuna from the Magnuson Act is inconsistent with what we have learned about tuna habits. They are not as migratory as we once believed. In many cases, they are no more migratory than the species such as sailfish and wahoo which are included in the Magnuson Act regulation. It is well worth noting that of all the nations on earth, only the United States and the Bahamas exclude tuna from regulation in their EEZs. I can find no better words to describe the situation than those found in your own Western Pacific Fishery Council position paper noting that Congress has created a situation which now exists in the domestic laws of the United States but which is not reflected in nature".

The gravity of these two issues, clearly revealed in Coleman's address, reflects the increasing involvement by individual Pacific island nations and U.S. territories in the development of proper fishery management and conservation required for the protection of our fishery resources. No where in the world is there a cultural and societal structure so intertwined with the sea as it is with Pacific island peoples. Governor Coleman most eloquently expressed the relation between all Pacific island societies and their beloved ocean, when he depicted American Samoa's traditions..."*where... for more than two thousand years... our people have lived in the most intimate association with the sea. No point in these islands is more than six miles from the shoreline, and the vast majority of our people live within sight of the ocean and the sound of the breaking waves. Long before the first westerners sighted these islands, we were aware of man's need to cooperate with the seas... and indeed... with all of nature.*"



Fresh tuna, dressed at sea, offloaded from the F/V Aleutian Spray at Kewalo Basin, Honolulu.

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

The Regional Fishery Management Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service are facing decreased funding and increased responsibilities. In response to this impending financial crisis, United States Representative DON YOUNG (R-Alaska) has introduced House Bill 1554, the "Marine Resources Support Act of 1989". This bill is designed to provide alternative funding for implementation of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MFCMA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). H.R. 1554 also gives the Councils authority to require observers on domestic fishing vessels necessary for proper fisheries management.

The bill would authorize the eight Councils to charge user fees as part of fisheries management plans. Those fees, along with the civil penalties collected through enforcement of the MFCMA, would be put into a new Fisheries Research Fund and used for fisheries research, management, and

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DRIFT GILLNET UPDATE

NORTH PACIFIC

In accordance with the Driftnet Act (see "Driftnet Act Consultations, PIFN, Volume Three, Number one), requiring the United States to consult and work with driftnet fishing countries on data and enforcement issues, Japan has agreed to an enforcement and monitoring treaty. Under the one-year agreement the Japanese will allow closer monitoring of their catch by accommodating nine U.S., five Canadian, and 32 Japanese observers on 32 of its squid driftnet fishing vessels operating in the North Pacific. Japan has also stated it would allow one U.S. observer on a tuna/billfish research vessel using large mesh nets.

The Japanese North Pacific patrol effort will be increased from four to five vessels, with a U.S. enforcement officer aboard each of the patrol vessels, and the number of patrol boat-days will increase from the current 250/year to 600/year.

A test program using satellite transponders on research vessels will also be implemented. The transponders are used to track and locate vessels.

Taiwan has apparently also reached a tentative agreement with the U.S. on a transponder (or transmitter) test program. Ten percent of its North Pacific Driftnet fishing fleet will be outfitted with transmitters provided by the Coordination Council for North American Affairs (CCNAA) during the 1989 fishing season. If the program succeeds, no driftnet fishing vessel will be permitted to fish in the North Pacific without a transmitter after January 1, 1990. Additionally, Taiwan has agreed to have its vessels mark their nets at 50meter intervals. The markers are to include the vessels name and its corresponding International radio call sign (IRSC).

Finally, a port inspection program to monitor landings of the driftnet vessels will be established and vessels will be required to improve their data recording and reporting practices.

No agreement has been reached with South Korea. They were given 60 days from June 29, 1989 to complete and implement agreements with the United States or face possible trade sanctions on their fishery imports.

SOUTH PACIFIC

The Forum Fisheries Agency, a fisheries management body comprised of 16 South Pacific countries, held its third consultation on Southern Albacore Fisheries Interaction in Suva, Fiji, June 26-28, 1989. The meeting, attended by government and industry representatives from the three major driftnet fishing countries operating in the South Pacific -- Japan, Taiwan and South Korea, concluded with South Korea deciding to stop its vessels from drift gillnet fishing in the South Pacific.

The indiscriminate nature of driftnet fishing and its numerous hazards to open ocean navigation and marine mammal life have caused many countries to prohibit driftnet fishing in their 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zones.

The recent increase in driftnet fishing activity in the South Pacific has resulted in a unified effort among South Pacific nations to ban driftnet fishing in South Pacific waters. Informal consultations on South Pacific driftnet fishing have occurred primarily through the Forum Fisheries Agency. The general consensus among the participants is to prohibit access to harbor facilities by driftnet vessels and discourage the purchase of fish caught by driftnets.

WAIHEE SIGNS DRIFTNET BILL

Governor John Waihee signed into law House Bill 20 (Act 345), relating to nets. The bill prevents the use of drift gillnets by prohibiting their possession or use in the waters of the State.

COUNCIL PASSES DRIFT GILLNET RESOLUTION

WILLIAM W. PATY, Chairman of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, recently signed a resolution passed by the Council which commended the Governors of the Pacific Basin Development Council on their efforts to resolve the drift gillnet problem. The PBDC consists of Governors JOHN WAIHEE, Hawaii, (President), PETER TALI COLEMAN, American Samoa, (Vice President), PEDRO P. TENORIO, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, (Secretary), and JOSEPH F. ADA, Guam, (Treasurer). The resolution provides that:

"The Governors, acting both through the PBDC Board and individually, will inform the President and State Department of (their) concerns and recommend that the high-seas drift gillnet problem be resolved through trade negotiations (with Japan, Korea and Taiwan) and through the application of international laws relative to marine mammal protection, marine debris and hazards to navigation; the Governors will deny foreign (high-seas) drift gillnet vessels access to ports under their respective administrations."

The Governors have called for a working partnership between the PBDC staff and the Western Pacific Fishery Council staff to develop a comprehensive list of canneries, transshipment facilities and fishing vessel support facilities throughout the Pacific Basin. A widespread publicity campaign, asking these companies not to accept gillnetted albacore tuna and not to service high-seas gillnet vessels, will also be undertaken.

The resolution, adopted April 12, 1989, at the 65th meeting of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, in Pago Pago, American Samoa, will facilitate the international effort to stop drift gillnet fishing in the Pacific.

Don Young introduces H.R. 1554...continued

enforcement. Funds would be earmarked for use in the area where they are collected,e.g., fees collected in the Council's region would be used exclusively for fishery programs in that area. Under the bill, however, fees could not exceed the cost of collecting fisheries research data, including the stationing of observers, nor could they be used as part of a limited entry scheme.

fishing technique. The task for the crew, primarily Bruce's wife and two sons, was to locate the fish and adapt this specialized knowledge of fishing to Pacific swordfish and the waters of the Pacific Ocean.

As swordfish generally begin feeding around dusk, gear is usually set at that time and retrieved early the next morning. The depth at which one might find the elusive swordfish corresponds to the varying phases of the moon. When the moon is full, swordfish will feed deeper while a slight moon or no moon at all will usually bring the swordfish nearer to the surface. According to Bruce, a comprehensive knowledge of the weather, tides and currents are also necessary for a successful catch.

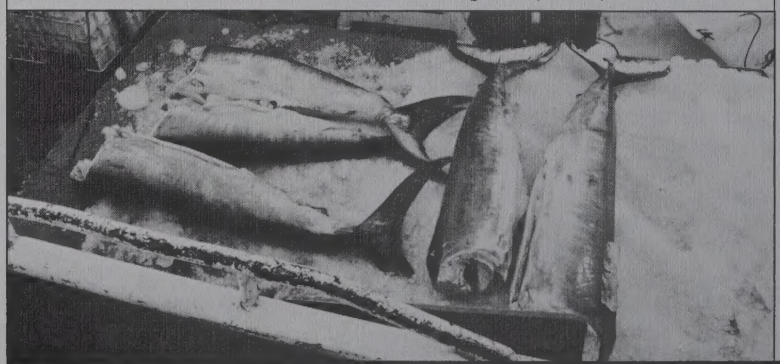
In order to attract swordfish to the bait during the dark of the evening hours, Bruce first tried using cyalume light sticks (the kind you break to start the glow process), but a number of problems occurred. One problem was that the initial glow of the stick was so bright that it would light up a large area around the baited hook, and contribute bait stealing and predation on hooked fish. Additionally, the uneven burning of the stick resulted in an intensely bright glow right after breakage which diminished considerably over a relatively short period. A third problem involved implosion of the sticks due to water pressure at great depths.

After a few trys with the cyalume light stick, Bruce turned to the World Plastics light stick. This stick contains a patented formula that glows evenly for 12 - 14 hours. It is packed and stored frozen to inhibit the chemical reaction that produces the florescent glow. The glow is considerably weaker than that of the initial phase of the cyalume stick and, accordingly, illuminates a smaller area, reducing the predation and bait stealing problems. The World Plastics chemical light stick has also does not implode because the air bubble within the stick is so small, enabling the stick to be set at depths up to 150 fathoms without imploding.

Aboard the MAGIC DRAGON at Pier 18, Bruce Mounier Jr. and Sr. explain the technique of attaching hooks onto the monofilament line to staff biologist, Bob Harman.

A major proponent of log and record keeping, Bruce recognizes the lack of data on the swordfish fishery in the Pacific. Without good information on size trends and incidental catches, particularly of blue and striped marlin, the future of the fishery will remain in question. Although Bruce is looking into the possibility of a tag-and-release program, he notes that one man's effort cannot possibly satisfy the need of the fishery. Detailed record keeping is vital to the future of the fishery and if appropriate data are not procured, the fishery could be overfished in a few years, like what happened on the Atlantic seaboard.

Under the current Pelagics Fishery Management Plan, data reporting for domestic vessels is required through Hawaii's commercial fish catch reporting system. Commercial fishery information is gathered through the State of Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources (HDAR) commercial landings reporting system. These data, however, are sorely inadequate, due to a low level of enforcement of complete reporting by fishermen. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Fishery Management Research Program, instituted in 1986, monitors the Hawaii fresh seafood wholesale market on a regular basis, and is used to estimate commercial landings of pelagic species independently of the State's commercial fish catch reporting system. Discrepancies between the two data gathering systems indicate a large need for better reporting by commercial fishermen, if suitable and proper decisions on fishery resources are to be made.



Note: Use of a product name does not imply endorsement by the Western Pacific Fishery Council

Pictured from left are: EKONIA SIOS, BO ALEXANDER, ARURU MATIABE, Minister of Fisheries ALLAN EBU, and ANDERSON AGIRU

Papua New Guinea representatives tour Hawaii Fisheries

Papua New Guinea's fishery development efforts are gradually being implemented. ALLAN EBU, the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources and several colleagues visited Hawaii recently to examine fisheries and aquaculture programs. They are interested in developing tuna fisheries and aquaculture products for export, and also for the cultivation of additional protein for its' highland people. The completion of Papua New Guinea's national fisheries development plan is being followed up with an extensive examination of Pacific fisheries in American Samoa, Fiji, Guam and Hawaii. The PNG government is implementing the fisheries plan slowly in order to avoid many of the problems encountered by those involved in aquaculture and fisheries development in other areas.

Joining Minister Ebu on the Pacific fisheries tour were colleagues ARURU MATIABE, Parliament Member for Koroba Lake Kopiago, ANDERSON AGIRU, First Secretary, for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and EKONIA SIOS, Assistant Secretary for Fisheries Development. The delegation met with GEORGE BOEHLERT, Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, who discussed fisheries around Hawaii and throughout the region. They visited the Oceanic Institute, where GARY KARR led a tour of O.I's aquaculture support activities. Mr. Ebu was very interested in the possible exchange of technology, especially O.I.'s training programs.

They discussed the fish auction system with FRANK GOTO of United Fishing Agency. JOHN CORBIN & RICHARD FASSLER of the Department of Land and Natural Resource's (DLNR) Aquaculture Development Program, presented an overview of Hawaii aquaculture; Fassler then led visits to the University of Hawaii Mariculture Research and Training Center in Kahaluu and the AmOrient Aquafarm, Inc. in Kahuku to discuss aquaculture training programs and facilities. All of the informational meetings, including one with WILLIAM PATY and other members of the DLNR, included discussion of PNG's fisheries potential, including aquaculture and export markets, and gave our visitors a better understanding of the species to consider for culture in Papua New Guinea, as well as potential obstacles.

The Minister said that his government is looking forward to working closely with people in Hawaii to develop their resources wisely and also to consider international fishery issues through the Council's cooperation with the Forum Fisheries Agency of which Papua New Guinea is a member.

ON THE LINE with Dr. Terry Donaldson, CNMI's newly appointed Plan Monitoring Team member

Having a recent history of poor fishing practices, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has hired DR.TERRY DONALDSON to try to turn things right again. Newly appointed as the Fisheries Supervisor for the CNMI, Dr. Donaldson is also their representative on the Council's Pelagics and Bottomfish Plan Monitoring Teams. Data collected by Donaldon's data section on the population distribution and abundance of fish species will provide CNMI's Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Council with the information necessary for making better decisions regarding CNMI's commercial fisheries.

Donaldson's background in fisheries and fish biology includes a B.S. in fisheries and zoology from Michigan State University; an M.S. in biology and animal behavior from the University of Guam; and a Ph.D. in zoology/physiology from Louisiana State University.

A primary focus for Terry, in his role as Fisheries Supervisor, will be initiating several projects aimed at fulfilling Council responsibilities and satisfying local needs, especially establishing size and quota regulations for reef fish and other fish species. In an effort to minimize wasteful fishing practices in the region, e.g., dynamiting and inadequate icing of hooked fish, Dr. Donaldson is seeking effective ways to educate fishermen to eliminate these practices. To facilitate these efforts, a previously cumbersome and inadequate fishery research data base is being reorganized and expanded.

The lack of comprehensive data on reef fish that inhabit both the northern and southern portions of the Mariana island archipelago and lack of comparative information on reef fish and offshore shallow water fish, has resulted in an inadequate foundation for preventing depletion of stocks of important fish. The expansion of the fish species list will help beef up the state of knowledge of potential commercial fish.

In an environment similar to Hawaii, where the potential for economic growth is being focused on the development of tourism, Dr. Donaldson is working to persuade people that the attraction of the little, beautiful fish is as commercially viable in the development of tourism as sport fish are. In order to avoid another Waikiki in Saipan, investors and developers are being presented with alternative perspectives on ways to accomplish their goals without irreparably damaging the shoreline environment.

Donaldson is also using mass-media, including radio, television, newspapers and posters to present timely fishery issues. He is seeking to inform the public of what he is doing and why, in order to help them understand the potential for fishery crashes if current fishing practices are continued.

KAUKAU CORNER

Swordfish is a reigning fish for summer. Whether baked, broiled or barbecued, swordfish can be done with a variety of sauces.

ORANGE JUICE AND OREGANO SAUCE

3/4 cup orange juice
Rind of 1/2 orange, finely grated
1/4 cup finely minced, fresh parsley
1/4 cup tomatoe sauce
lemon juice to taste
1 tablespoon finely minced, fresh oregano or 1 1/2 teaspoon chives
1 teaspoon black pepper
3 large cloves of garlic, finely minced
2 tablespoons olive oil
Mix all the ingredients together and marinate swordfish steaks for 2 hours in the refrigerator.

PAUL BARTRAM'S LIME-SOY MARINADE

1/2 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons sherry
1 tablespoon minced ginger
2 tablespoons grated zest of lime

Combine soy sauce, olive oil, lime juice, sherry, ginger and zest of lime: blend well. Marinate fish for about an hour, turning occasionally. When broiling or barbecuing the fish, baste frequently with the marinade. Any left over marinade can be boiled in a sauce pan and poured over the cooked fish. Do not overcook the fish, it should be very soft, moist and tender on the inside.

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